The Alberta Economy at a Glance

July 15, 2011

- In 2010, Alberta's **real GDP** by industry advanced 3.8% up from a 4.8% decrease recorded in 2009. Nationally, real GDP expanded 3.3% in 2010, following the 2.6% decline of 2009.
- **Employment** in Alberta rose by 22,000 in June 2011 and the **unemployment rate** rose from 5.4% in May to 5.6% in June, due to an increase in the labour force of 27,600 people. Nationally, employment increased by 28,400 while the unemployment rate remained steady at 7.4% .
- In April, **average weekly earnings** in Alberta were the highest in the country at $1,045.97 (seasonally adjusted). This was an increase of 1.4% from March and 4.7% higher than a year earlier. Nationwide, average weekly earnings were $876.44 (seasonally adjusted), up 3.5% from April 2010.
- Alberta's year-over-year **inflation rate** was 2.8% in May, down from the 3.0% rate recorded in April. Nationally, the inflation rate stood at 3.7%, up from 3.3% in April.
- As of April 1, 2011, Alberta's **population** was estimated at 3,758,234 representing growth of 1.5% from a year earlier. Nationally, population grew 1.1% from April 2010.
- In the first quarter of 2011, Alberta had a **net interprovincial migration** gain of 5,275 people. This was up from the gain of 2,510 in the fourth quarter of 2010.
- Alberta **retail sales** were up 1.6% (seasonally adjusted) between March and April and 7.4% above April 2010 levels. Nationally, retail sales edged up 0.3% from March.

NEW!

- In June, **housing starts** in Alberta fell 7.0% from May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 23,900 units. Nationally, housing starts advanced 1.7% from May.
- **New house prices** in Alberta increased 0.3% in May. Compared to a year ago, new house prices in Alberta were 0.3% higher. Nationally, new house prices were 1.9% higher than a year ago.
- The value of **building permits** in Alberta increased by 22.7% (seasonally adjusted) in May 2011 to over $1.1 billion due to a decrease in the residential sector (-8.2%) and an increase in the non-residential sector (94.7%).
- The **average number of rigs** drilling in Alberta was 150 in June, up from 84 in May. Drilling activity was 26.9% more than the numbers from June 2010.

	2011-12 Budget	2010-11 Actual	2011-12 YTD
Oil (WTI, US$/barrel)	$89.40	$83.33	$101.57
Natural Gas (ARP, $C/GJ)	$3.45	$3.28	$3.35 (April – May)